



Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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The Facts About Congressional Support for Veterans

- ☑ **Veterans Budget Increased \$23 Billion in 4 Years**

The total VA budget has been increased from \$48 billion in FY 2001 to over \$71 billion in the FY 2005 budget, almost a 50% increase in just four years.
- ☑ **Veterans Medical Care Funding Increased 38% in 4 Years**

Veterans medical care funding has risen from \$20.2 billion in the FY 2001 budget to an estimated \$27.8 billion in the FY 2005 budget.
- ☑ **Record Number of Veterans Receiving Health Care Today**

As a result over 5 million veterans will receive health care services this year, more than 1.2 million more than just four years ago.
- ☑ **Veterans Waiting Lists Reduced by 99%**

The number of veterans on VA's medical waiting lists has dropped from over 300,000 in 2002 to just over 3,000 today.
- ☑ **Historic New \$22 Billion Concurrent Receipt Benefit**

After more than a century of inaction the federal government, Congress last year approved a historic concurrent receipt benefit for veterans that will provide over \$22 billion to more than 250,000 disabled military retirees over the next ten years.
- ☑ **GI Bill Boosted Record 46% Since 2001**

As a result of legislation approved in 2001, the GI Bill educational benefit was boosted by 46%, raising the lifetime benefit for qualified veterans from \$23,400 to \$35,460.
- ☑ **VA Home Loan Maximums Will Increase by 67% Since 2001**

Just this week, the House approved legislation that will increase the maximum VA home loan guarantee to \$333,700, an increase of 67% from the prevailing maximum level in 2001.
- ☑ **Dozens of Veterans Benefits and Services Expanded and Improved**

Over the past four years, Congress has passed, and President Bush signed, 17 separate bills to improve and expand veterans benefits and services that will:

 - *Expand the scope and quality of veterans health care services;*
 - *Provide new and increased benefits to disabled veterans;*
 - *Improve job training and placement services for veterans;*
 - *Extend new benefits to veterans widows and dependents;*
 - *Help eradicate homelessness among veterans;*
 - *Expand the national cemetery system for veterans; and*
 - *Strengthen the legal rights of all servicemembers.*